

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONFINDUSTRIA 1978 ECONOMIC PLAN PRESENTED TO
NORTHEAST INDUSTRIALISTS

1. SUMMARY: THE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA'S INDUSTRIALISTS ATTRACTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE REGION'S POWER GROUPS TO ITS LAUNCHING OF THE CONFINDUSTRIA ECONOMIC PLAN FOR 1978. IF, AS CORRIERE DELLA SERA'S AND OTHER PRESS' REPORTS HAVE STATED, CARLI AND COMPANY ARE SEEKING A BROAD SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROGRAM, A GOOD START APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE NORTHEAST. END SUMMARY.

2. FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS PRESIDENT LAMBERTO MAZZA PRESENTED CONFINDUSTRIA'S ECONOMIC PLAN FOR 1978 TO AN OVERFLOW AUDIENCE AT VILLA MANIN ON JANUARY 9. PROMINENT AMONG THOSE SHARING THE PODIUM WITH MAZZA WERE CONFINDUSTRIA VICE PRESIDENT (AND TRIESTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT) MARCELLO MODIANO, REGIONAL GIUNTA PRESIDENT ANTONIO COMELLI (DC), SENATORS GIUSEPPE TONUTTI (DC) AND MARIO TOROS (DC), DEPUTIES LORIS FORTUNA (PSI), WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRY,
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AND SILVANO BACICCHI (PCI), AND GIANNINO PADOVAN (CGIL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF PORDENONE PROVINCE WHO ALSO REPRESENTED THE PROVINCE'S CGIL, CSIL, UIL FEDERAZIONE UNITARIA). SEVERAL PROMINENT INDUSTRIALISTS ALSO ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY WHICH INCLUDED MOST OF THE REST OF THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTARIANS, REGIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT ARNALDO PITTONI (PSI), DC REGIONAL SECRETARY

SERGIO COLONI, AND VARIOUS REGIONAL GIUNTA ASSESSORS,
BANKERS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

3. THE MEETING'S MAJOR THEME WAS THE NEED FOR UNITY OF
PURPOSE BY GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND LABOR TO REDUCE
INFLATION, EASE INVESTMENT CREDIT COSTS AND TAXES, AND
INCREASE EMPLOYMENT. REGIONAL PRESIDENT COMELLI ECHOED
THE CALL FOR UNITY AND USED THE PLATFORM TO DEFEND THE
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS THUS FAR IN DEALING WITH
THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1976 EARTHQUAKES, NOTING THAT THE
FRIULI IS NOW INCLUDED IN THE EEC'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLAN.

4. FORTUNA (PSI), POINTING OUT THAT THE CONFINDUSTRIA GOAL
OF A 4.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN GNP WAS 1.5 TO 2.5 PERCENTAGE
POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FORESEEN BY ANYONE ELSE, CALLED FOR
A PRECISE, REALISTIC INDUSTRIAL POLICY THAT WOULD AVOID
STOPGAP SOLUTIONS. BACICCHI (PCI) CALLED FOR POLITICAL
UNITY TO REDUCE PUBLIC DEBT AND INFLATION. PADOVAN (CGIL)
EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE INDUSTRIALISTS'
PLAN CAREFULLY, CALLING ON THE LATTER TO WORK TOGETHER
RATHER THAN AS INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS TO SOLVE ITALY'S
DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

5. AS FOR THE DC LEADERSHIP, SENATORS TOROS AND TONUTTI
EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR BROAD CONSENSUS TO SOLVE THE
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COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. TONUTTI NOTED THAT THE
SIX-PARTY ACCORD HAS THUS FAR FAILED TO RESTORE INVESTOR
CONFIDENCE DESPITE ITS BEING A REALISTIC RESPONSE TO THE
CURRENT SITUATION AND THAT, THEREFORE, GREATER UNITY OF
PURPOSE AMONG THE GROUPS INVOLVED IS NEEDED TO STIMULATE
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

6. COMMENT: AS FOR THE BUSINESSMEN PRESENT, PAOLO TASSI
A LEADING TRIESTE INDUSTRIALIST SEEMS TO HAVE SUMMED UP
THEIR THOUGHTS NOTING: QTE POLITICS DO NOT COME BEFORE
ECONOMICS UNQTE. MOEN.

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